

Itsukushima  
an island shrine  
on the Inland Sea

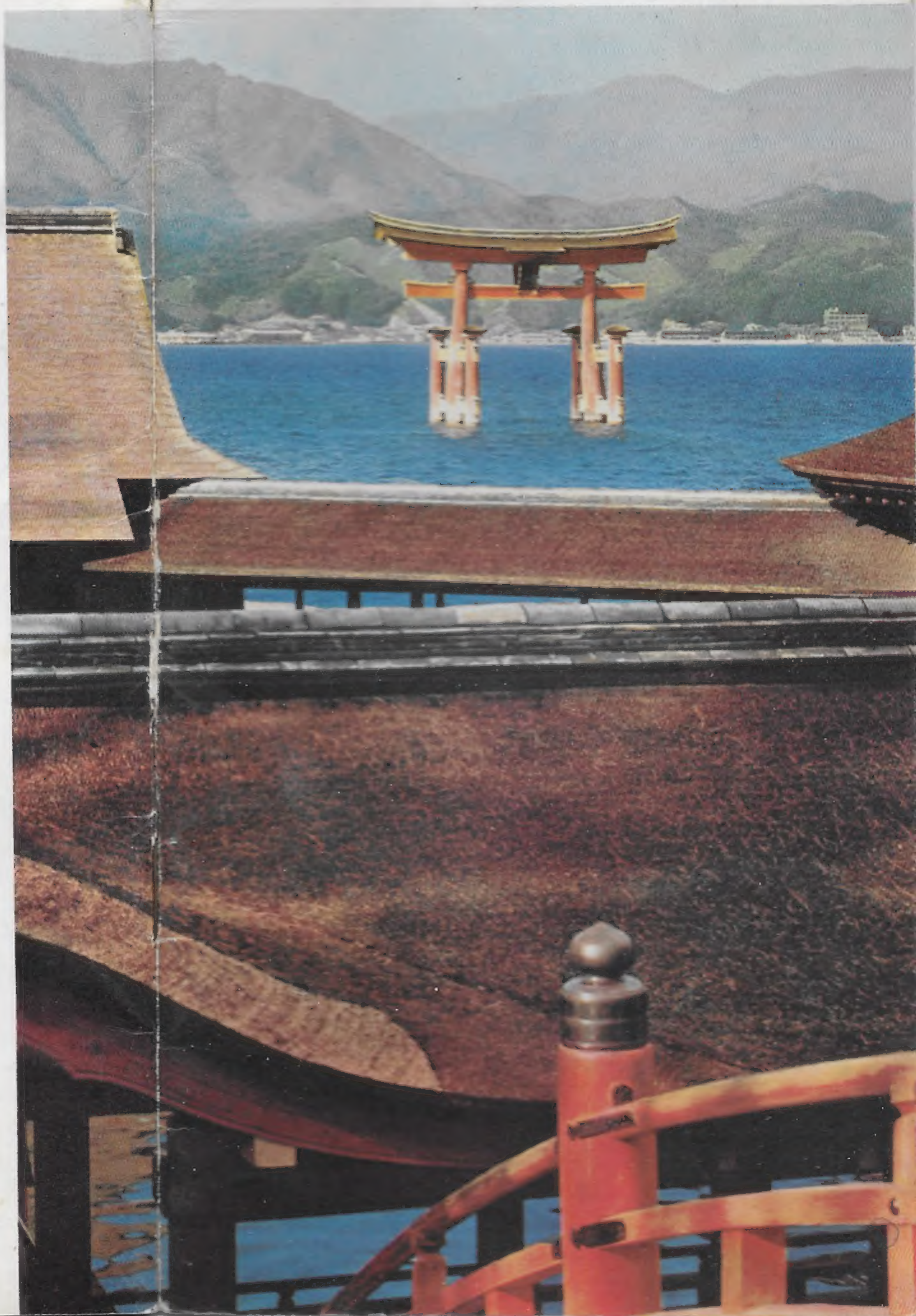
# Your Guide to **Japan**

## **JAPAN NATIONAL TOURIST ASSOCIATION**

1 Marunouchi, Tokyo, Japan

### **OVERSEAS OFFICES**

45 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N.Y., U.S.A.  
333 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 1, Ill., U.S.A.  
651 Market Street, San Francisco 5, Calif., U.S.A.  
109 Kaiulani Avenue, Honolulu 15, Hawaii, U.S.A.  
165 University Avenue, Toronto 1, Ontario, Canada  
6 Regent Street, London S.W. 1, England  
8 rue de Richelieu, Paris (1<sup>er</sup>), France  
1261 Charoen Krung Road, Bangkok, Thailand





## CONTENTS

	page
<b>JAPAN, AN IDEAL VACATIONLAND . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOURIST RESORTS</b>	
Tokyo & Vicinity . . . . .	2
Central Honshu . . . . .	5
Osaka & Vicinity . . . . .	6
Inland Sea District . . . . .	8
Shikoku . . . . .	8
Kyushu . . . . .	9
Northern Honshu . . . . .	10
Hokkaido . . . . .	10
<b>CALENDAR EVENTS . . . . .</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>AMUSEMENTS . . . . .</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>SPORTS . . . . .</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>SOUVENIRS . . . . .</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATIONS . . . . .</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>FOODS &amp; DRINKS . . . . .</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION . . . . .</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>ENTRY PROCEDURE . . . . .</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>CURRENCY . . . . .</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>SUGGESTED TOURS . . . . .</b>	<b>29</b>



**Awa Odori**

All information contained in this brochure are based on data as of July 1, 1962.

## JAPAN

### AN IDEAL VACATIONLAND

Japan consists of four main islands—Hokkaido (78,509 km<sup>2</sup>), Honshu or the Mainland (230,449 km<sup>2</sup>), Shikoku (18,758 km<sup>2</sup>) and Kyushu (41,947 km<sup>2</sup>)—and over 3,000 minor islands, extending for some 2,080 kilometers off the coast of the Asian Continent in the north Pacific.

The chief geographic features of Japan are the abundance of mountains and their rich scenic variety. Of the numerous peaks, Mt. Fuji in Honshu is the highest with an altitude of 3,776 meters and enjoys world-wide fame for its graceful figure. Also well-known are the lofty peaks in the Japan Alps in central Honshu, which offer visitors a thrilling joy of climbing and skiing amid magnificent scenic beauty.

In between the mountain ranges stretch fertile lands dotted with lakes of mystic beauty. Rivers thread their way through the peaks, forming lovely waterfalls and ravines in the upper reaches. Hot springs are found in all parts of Japan and because of their recognized medicinal value and scenic environs, they have actuated the development of a great many thriving spa towns. The picturesque seascape created by the indented coastline and the pine-clad islets is also worthy of note.

Japan is a holiday-land in all seasons. Here winter is not very cold, nor is summertime heat intense. In spring, for the three months from March, the land is crowned with all sorts of lovely flowers, including cherry blossoms and Japanese apricots. In summer, with sun and fun galore, the seaside, mountain and hot spring resorts are at their best; in autumn the tinted foliage of the maples and other trees, the chrysanthemums and the clear air, are constant outdoor attractions. Bright sunshine and blue skies continue far into winter. In the northern provinces, snow-mantled mountains and frozen lakes offer ideal grounds for various forms of open-air sports.

Japan is a cultural museum where are carefully preserved ages-old art treasures and mementoes of historic interest. Old traditions and legends remain as fresh as ever and unique customs and manners are an unfailing source of joy to foreign visitors to this country.

### HOW TO REACH JAPAN

By air, Japan is only a matter of hours from any part of the world. Regular scheduled services to Japan are maintained by the Japan Air Lines from San Francisco and Los Angeles to Tokyo via Honolulu, from Djakarta via Singapore, Bangkok and Hongkong and from Paris, London and Copenhagen via North Pole.

Principal airlines of the world also serve Japan with regular flights. They are the Air France, Air-India International, Alitalia Italian Airlines, British Overseas Airways Corporation, Canadian Pacific Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways, Civil Air Transport, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Lufthansa German Airlines, Northwest Orient Airlines, Pan American World Airways, P.N. Garuda Indonesian Airways, Qantas Empire Airways, Scandinavian Airlines System, Swissair Transport Company and Thai Airways International and United Arab Airlines.



Besides, leisurely ocean liner services to Japan are in operation by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Major foreign steamship companies serving Japan include the American President Lines, Messageries Maritimes, P & O-Orient Lines and Royal Inter-ocean Lines.

### CLIMATE & CLOTHING

The mean temperatures (in Centigrade) of the twelve months in Tokyo, the country's geographical as well as administrative center, are:—

Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
March 7	June 20	September 22	December 5
April 13	July 24	October 16.5	January 3 (Lowest -5)
May 17	August 26 (Highest 34)	November 11	February 4

An average of one degree higher in the western parts of the country around Osaka and Kyoto.

Generally speaking, Japanese climate is similar to that of the middle belt of the United States or the central and southern parts of Europe, and the clothing worn in these sections in the corresponding seasons is appropriate for Japan.

Light sweaters or jackets come in handy anytime except in summer. Raincoats should be included in the travel outfit during the rainy season which usually starts in early June and lasts for about three weeks.

### TOURIST RESORTS

Illustrations of the major places of tourist interest in Japan are given here with Tokyo Metropolis as the starting point, first down to the west as far as Kyushu and then up to the north as far as Hokkaido.

#### TOKYO & VICINITY

Tokyo, capital of Japan since 1868, is located in the mid-eastern part of Honshu, facing the Bay of Tokyo which opens out on the Pacific Ocean. It has an area of 2,023 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 9,936,000.

Historically, Tokyo first became the seat of the Shogunate Government in 1603 and under the Shogun's great influence, for the following nearly three centuries, the city (then called Edo) enjoyed all the privileges of a virtual national capital, developing a highly refined civilization of its own. In 1868, with the surrender of the Tokugawas to the Imperial House, Edo, now renamed Tokyo, became the seat of the Imperial Regime.

Today, Tokyo is the center of national administration, education and finance, and is also a most thriving industrial city. It is a highly westernized metropolis, but it still retains much of its old-world charm. What makes Tokyo particularly attractive to visitors is its unique capacity to blend the East and the West, the old and the new. Side by side with the bustling activity of its business sections, there remain traditional ways and habits of old Japan interspersed by many a colorful festivity.



Imperial Palace Plaza and Marunouchi section, Tokyo

The major tourist attractions in Tokyo include the Imperial Palace, the Emperor's residence, surrounded by a series of picturesque moats; the most westernized Marunouchi section which is the hub of Tokyo's commercial activities; the Diet Building, an imposing three-story structure; Ginza and Nihombashi, the busiest and most fashionable shopping streets in all Japan with many top-ranking stores, restaurants and theaters; the Outer Garden of Meiji Shrine which has in its 48.6 hectares area Memorial Picture Gallery and various sports facilities; Asakusa, amusement center in downtown Tokyo; Kanda Bookstore Street known as the Latin Quarter of Tokyo; and landscape gardens of which Rikugien and Shinjuku Gyoen are most popular.

Of the many museums, the most noteworthy are Tokyo National Museum in Ueno Park; National Museum of Modern Art near Ginza, and Japan Folkcrafts Museum at Komaba.

In addition to theaters for exclusive performance of the Noh and the Kabuki, Tokyo has movie-houses and theaters for popular shows without number. For the lovers of traditional Japanese sports, there are Kokugikan at Kuramae for *sumo* tournaments and Kodokan at Suidobashi for *judo* exercise.

Yokohama, population 1,376,000, 29 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, is the gateway to Japan for ocean liners coming from all parts of the world. It is connected with Tokyo by the Keihin National Highway and a fast and frequent system of electric trains.

First opened to foreign trade in 1859, Yokohama grew rapidly both in size and in importance. Equipped with good harbor facilities, it is the largest port in East Japan and one of the most thriving port towns in the Far East.



Chief among the places of interest in the city are San-keien Garden, a fine example of landscape gardening, Nogeyama Park, and the busy shopping street of Isezakicho.

**Nikko** lies some 150 kilometers north of Tokyo, a mere 2-hour train journey. Here the grandeur of nature is well combined with the finest in man's handiwork, the latter being conspicuous in the magnificent structures of Toshogu Shrine. The shrine, built in 1636 as the seat of the mausoleum of Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate, is one of the greatest monuments in the history of Japanese architecture. Yomeimon Gate, entrance to the main shrine, particularly enjoys international repute for its gorgeous decorations.

From Nikko City a well-paved driveway runs west for about 16 kilometers to Lake Chuzenji, an oval lake, 21 kilometers in circumference and surrounded by hills. Kegon Waterfall is its outlet and falls 100 meters in a setting of sylvan beauty.

Nikko is also a haunt of summer and winter vacationists, offering yachting, camping and trout fishing in Lake Chuzenji and mountain-climbing, skiing and skating in the Inner Nikko region.

**Kamakura**, the seat of a feudal government from 1192 to 1333, is a lovely seaside resort 51 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, easily accessible by a frequent service of electric trains from the capital. Its mild climate and its fine bathing beach make it a popular holiday resort throughout the year.

This ancient capital city is also noted for its Daibutsu (Great Buddha), a huge 700-year-old bronze image of Buddha 12.8 meters high.

**Hakone**, which forms a part of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, is famous for its mountain scenery, 12 hot springs and many historic spots. The center of this district is Miyanoshita, which is a hot spring resort lying at an altitude of 417 meters.

Places of scenic and historic interest in the Hakone mountains include Lake Ashi, which is especially noted for its splendid reflection of Mt. Fuji, Hakone Shrine, said to have been founded in 757, and Owakidani and Kowakidani Gorges, which eject sulphurous fumes from crevices in the rocks on the mountainside.

**Fuji Five Lakes District**, lying at the northern base of Mt. Fuji, is so named because of the five lakes embraced within its area. This scenic resort, with its lovely lakes and extensive forests, offers a variety of recreation throughout the year, including excellent skating on Lake Yamanaka. The two towns of Funatsu and Fuji-Yoshida, both located close to Lake Kawaguchi, are popular starting points for the ascent of Mt. Fuji.

**Atami**, 105 kilometers or 1½ hours by train from Tokyo, is a popular year-round hot spring resort at the neck of Izu Peninsula.

Atami owes its popularity to its proximity to the Tokyo-Yokohama area, its abundant yield of hot spring water, and its superb shoreline and genial climate. It is also the starting point for a round of scenic and hot spring resorts in which Izu Peninsula abounds.

## CENTRAL HONSHU

**Nagoya**, population 1,592,000, 366 kilometers west of Tokyo, is the largest industrial city in central Japan. With Tokyo and Osaka, the city forms the heart of Japan's economic activities.

Nagoya and its vicinity thrive in such industries as cotton spinning and weaving, and clock and watch making. The area also excels in the production of superior goods including textiles, ceramics, sewing machines, bicycles, electric machines and plywood. Heavy industries also prosper with a huge annual output of ships, rolling stock, automobiles, spinning machines and chemical goods.

The chief tourist attractions in the city are Nagoya Castle, Atsuta Shrine, Higashiyama Park with its Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Osu Amusement Quarter, and the TV Tower.

Nagoya also offers enjoyable trips to Inuyama Castle overlooking the Kiso River and Gifu, noted for the traditional "Cormorant Fishing" performed on the Nagara River in the summer months.

Also within easy access from Nagoya lies Ise-Shima National Park. This 520 km<sup>2</sup> park has within its boundaries the Grand Shrines of Ise, an object of national reverence, and the famous nurseries of pearl culture in Ago Bay amid attractive beach scenery.

### The Great Buddha at Kamakura





The Japan Alps embrace three volcanic mountain ridges traversing from north to south the central and widest part of Honshu. They are compared with their larger European prototype in ruggedness, variety of alpine flora, and in bird and animal life.

The most prominent peaks are Mts. Shirouma (altitude, 2,933 m.), Tateyama (3,015 m.), Yari (3,180 m.), Hotaka (3,190 m.), Norikura (3,026 m.), and Tsurugi (3,003 m.). Kamikochi Valley at the foot of Mt. Yari is an ideal summer resort, where hiking, camping, fishing, boating and other outdoor sports may be fully enjoyed.

#### OSAKA & VICINITY

Osaka, the commercial and industrial center in western Japan, is the second largest city in Japan with a population of 3,012,000. Situated at the mouth of the Yodo River emptying into the Bay of Osaka, it has a fine network of canals interlacing its busy streets.

Since its grand day in 1584 when Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the military ruler, had his residential castle built here, Osaka continued to develop its activities as a most important center of domestic and foreign commerce in Japan. In this bustling city there converge the Tokaido trunk line and several other lines of the National Railways, together with privately operated interurban electric lines.

The principal "must-sees" of the city are Nakanoshima, which is the city's civic center situated between the two main affluents of the Yodo, Osaka Castle, an imposing reconstruction of once the grandest and strongest castle in Japan, Sennichimae and Dotombori, the pleasure quarters crowded with theaters, movie-houses, stores and restaurants, and Shinsaibashi-suji, the busiest shopping district.

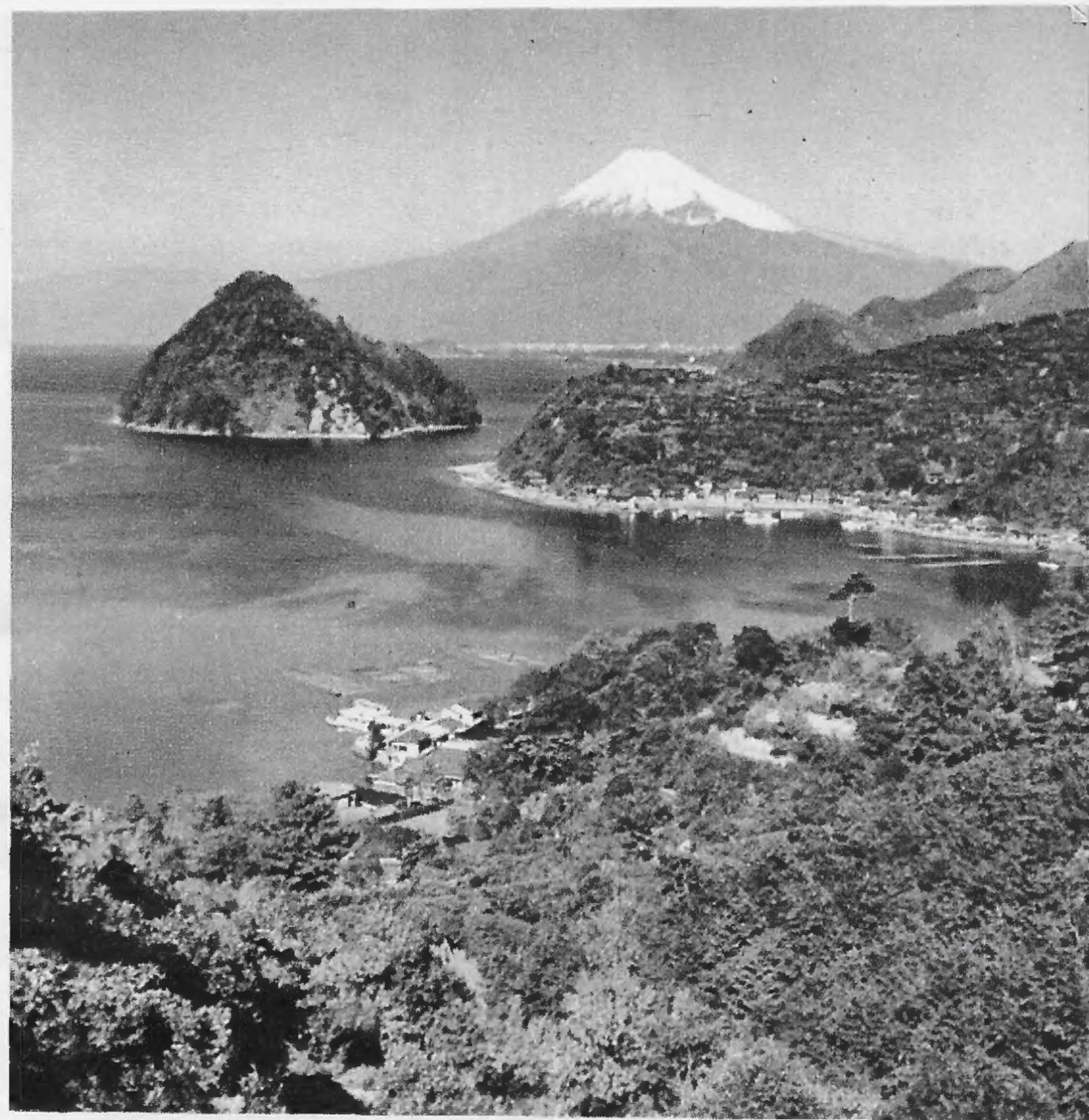
Osaka is 556 kilometers from Tokyo, 6 hours 30 minutes by limited express train, or 1 hour 50 minutes by plane.

Kyoto, population 1,285,000, 43 kilometers northeast of Osaka, is a city rich in historic association and legendary lore, a repository for the finest relics of the civilization of old Japan.

Once the capital of the country from 794 to 1868, Kyoto today has many imposing shrines, temples and palaces with elaborately designed gardens. It is also a city of festivals. Colorful fetes fill its calendar from the New Year to the year-end.

Kyoto is also Japan's top center of industrial arts and boasts of a long history in each branch. Its products include silk fabrics, brocades, lacquer ware, earthen ware, porcelain, fans, dolls and bronze—all of superb workmanship. Kyoto's numerous shops offer a wealth of lovely souvenirs to the tourist.

The major tourist attractions in Kyoto are Heian Shrine, built in 1895, noted for its vermilion-lacquered architecture and its lovely garden with cherry-trees, Higashi and Nishi Honganji Temples, splendid examples of Japanese Buddhist architecture, Ginkakuji (Silver Pavilion), the old country villa of a Shogun with an elegant landscape garden, Kinkakuji (Gold Pavilion), also a Shogun's villa rebuilt in 1955, Sanjusangendo, an elongated Buddhist temple of the 13th century, the Old Imperial Palace, with the famous Ceremonial Hall which is used for the Coronation, Nijo Castle, noted for the grandeur of its decorations



Mt. Fuji viewed from the west coast of Izu Peninsula

and embellishments, and Kiyomizu Temple, whose high wooden platform commands a panoramic view of Kyoto and its neighboring districts.

Nara, reached in less than 1 hour from either Osaka or Kyoto, was the national capital of Japan during the 8th century. At the height of its glory, Nara, also the cradle of Japanese art, craft and literature, had many magnificent palaces, temples and mansions in a very extensive area, of which some still remain almost as they were originally.

Places worth to visit include Nara Park, a natural woodland park where many tame deer roam, Kasuga Shrine, whose buildings are painted a bright vermilion and hung with numerous metal lanterns, Todaiji Temple, internationally famed for its colossal bronze image of Buddha (cast in 749), 16.2 meters in height, and Horyuji Temple (founded in 607) on the outskirts of the city, the oldest existing temple in Japan and probably the most antique wooden structure in the entire world, which houses a wealth of priceless objects of art.

Kobe, population 1,114,000, 33 kilometers west of Osaka, is the foremost trade port in Japan and the gateway to Osaka, Kyoto and Nara. It has the Rokko Mountains as background, and is washed by the waters of Osaka Bay.

Within easy reach of Kobe are many places of scenic and historic interest, such as lovely Suma, Maiko and Akashi Beaches, and Awaji Island, the largest of all the islands dotting the Inland Sea of Seto. About 55 kilometers to the west is Himeji City which is particularly noted for its "Egret" Castle claimed the best extant feudal stronghold in Japan. This castle is now under repairs.



## INLAND SEA DISTRICT

The Inland Sea of Seto, a vast expanse of water studded with numerous islets of fantastic shapes, stretches between Honshu and the islands of Shikoku and Kyushu for a distance of about 500 kilometers. Here four seas are linked together by channels. At its widest point, from north to south, the sea measures 64 kilometers, and at its narrowest point, 7 kilometers. The most scenic part of the sea is designated as Inland Sea National Park.

**Hiroshima**, population 432,000, 305 kilometers from Kobe, is the largest city in Honshu west of Kobe, and a center of industry, education and communications. Lying at the head of Hiroshima Bay, the city is traversed by many rivers and canals.

**Miyajima**, known as Shrine Island, is a scenic gem of the Inland Sea, easily accessible from Hiroshima in less than 1 hour by train and ferry. It is a pretty island, about 31 kilometers in circumference, and is noted chiefly for Itsukushima Shrine standing on its north shore. The shrine buildings are connected by corridors or galleries, which stretch out over the sea, so that at high tide the whole edifice seems to be floating on the surface of the sea.

## SHIKOKU

**Shikoku**, one of Japan's four major islands, is connected with Honshu across the Inland Sea by the 1-hour Uno-Takamatsu ferry service of the National Railways.

### Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto



The Hall of Great Buddha, Todaiji Temple, Nara

The Inland Sea side of the island is rich in tourist attractions, including Takamatsu, the chief port on the island for communication with Honshu, Ritsurin Park in the city, a fine specimen of Japanese landscape gardening, Yashima, a tableland of scenic and historic fame, Matsuyama Castle, a well-preserved feudal castle, Kotohira Shrine, a most popular Shinto shrine among mariners, and Naruto Channel, noted for its formidable whirlpool.

## KYUSHU

**Fukuoka**, population 648,000, a prosperous commercial city in northern Kyushu, is divided by a river into two parts—Fukuoka Proper and Hakata.

Fukuoka Proper is the administration center, while Hakata is the commercial quarter, having many shopping streets and an amusement center.

There is a limited express service of the National Railways from Tokyo to Hakata, the city's main railroad station, covering the distance of 1,176 kilometers in 17 hours. An air service also connects Fukuoka with Tokyo.

**Karatsu**, 53 kilometers west of Hakata, is one of the most popular summer resorts in Kyushu and is noted for the lovely stretch of pine-fringed white sandy beach of Nijino-Matsubara nearby.

**Beppu** is the largest hotspring resort in Kyushu, and also the terminus of the Osaka-Beppu sea route through the Inland Sea. It is also reached in 3 hours by train from Hakata via Moji, gateway to Kyushu for travelers coming by land from Honshu.

In addition to numerous hotspring baths installed in the hotels there are hot sand baths on the beach. In the suburbs of the city there are many "Hells" of boiling ponds of hot-spring water. A motorbus trip around them is available.



Mt. Aso forms the core of Aso National Park in the central part of Kyushu. The crater of this volcano, measuring 80 kilometers in circumference, is the largest in the world. The undulating foothills of the mountain provide ideal grazing grounds for cattle.

Nagasaki, population 345,000, 161 kilometers west of Fukuoka, is the oldest open port in Japan, its activity dating back to the mid-16th century.

Nagasaki and its environs have many places rich in scenic beauty as well as many historic sites and religious relics.

Unzen, an internationally renowned holiday resort constituting a part of Unzen-Amakusa National Park, is reached from Nagasaki by a 3-hour ride by car or motorbus. Unzen is noted for the azaleas, maples and ice-coated trees and also for the cluster of hot springs, while Amakusa presents a lovely seascape with numerous islets off the west coast of Kyushu.

### NORTHERN HONSHU

Sendai, population 426,000, is the largest city, as well as the culture center, of northern Honshu. The 352-kilometer distance from Tokyo is covered in 4 hours 43 minutes by limited express train.

The city is noted for its abundance of green groves and also for the Mausoleum of the Date family and Sakuragaoka and Tsutsujigaoka Parks.

Matsushima, known as Pine Islands, a short ride by electric train from Sendai, has been one of Japan's leading scenic attractions from very old times.

A great number of islands of fantastic shapes, each covered with aged pine-trees, dot Matsushima Bay. The view of the bay, especially on moonlight nights, is most charming.

Lake Towada, about 45 kilometers in circumference, is the scenic gem of Towada-Hachimantai National Park. It is reached by a 64-kilometer bus road from Aomori, an important port town at the northern end of Honshu. The lake is stocked with salmon-trout and the best time for fishing them is from June to the end of July.

### HOKKAIDO

Sapporo, population 524,000, is the administrative, educational and commercial center of Hokkaido. Unlike most of Japan's cities, this comparatively new city has wide tree-lined boulevards intersecting each other at right angles.

From Tokyo, Sapporo is 19 hours 55 minutes by rail, including ferry-boat connection between Aomori and Hakodate, or 1 hour by plane.

The neighborhood of Sapporo is a popular skiing center. Ski jumps are found at Sankakuyama, and excellent slopes are on the surrounding mountains of Jozankei Spa.

Places of interest in Hokkaido include Noboribetsu Spa, the largest of its kind in Hokkaido; Lake Toya, a lovely lake which makes up Shikotsu-Toya National Park with Lake Shikotsu, Jozankei and Noboribetsu Spas; and two other national parks of Akan and Daisetsuzan noted for their unique mountain scenery with lakes, marshes and deep virgin forests.

## CALENDAR EVENTS

### JANUARY

1st-3rd: *New Year Celebration*. To every Japanese the New Year is the festival of festivals. The streets are gay with New Year decorations consisting of pine twigs, plum branches, bamboo stalks and ropes with paper festoons. Kite-flying, poem-card game, battledore and shuttlecock and other traditional pastimes are enjoyed. Greetings are exchanged and shrine visits are made.

3rd: *Ball-Catching Festival* of Hakozaki Shrine, Fukuoka. Two groups of youths vie for a sacred wooden ball thrown into the crowd by the priest for good luck.

6th: *New Year Parade of Firemen* in Meiji Shrine Outer Garden or Hibiya Park, Tokyo. Agile firemen perform acrobatic stunts at the top of tall bamboo ladders.

7th: *Bullfinch Exchange Festival* of Dazaifu Shrine, Fukuoka. People try to get hold of 12 good-luck-inviting bullfinches of gilt wood thrown into them, together with many plain ones, as they pass them from hand to hand in the dim light of a small bonfire.

15th: *Adults' Day*. The young men and women who have come of age are entertained by their parents, for they now have the right to vote as citizens.

15th: *Firing of Grass* on Mt. Wakakusa, Nara. The historic burning of some 30,000 square meters of turf on the hill is performed, together with a fireworks display.

Middle of the month: *First Sumo Tournament*, Tokyo. The first of the six annual *sumo* (Japanese wrestling)

### Akan National Park, Hokkaido





tournaments opens at Kokugikan, Asakusa Kuramae, Tokyo, and runs for 15 days.

## FEBRUARY

3rd or 4th: *Bean-Throwing Ceremony* at shrines and temples in many parts of Japan. People throng the grounds to participate in the traditional ceremony of throwing beans to drive away imaginary devils, shouting "Fortune in, Devils out," with *sumo* wrestlers, actors and other celebrated people acting as Men of the Year.

3rd or 4th: *Lantern Festival* of Kasuga Shrine, Nara. Over 3,000 bronze lanterns of the shrine are lighted and many torches are kindled in the precincts.

Middle of the month: *Eyo Festival* of Saidaiji Temple, Saidaiji, Okayama Prefecture. A multitude of half-naked devotees elbow and shoulder each other for a sacred baton thrown into them in darkness in and about the temple.

17th-20th: *Emburi* at Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture. To pray for a rich harvest, grouped villagers dance along down Mt. Choja in gala processions to the accompaniment of flutes, drums, gongs and other musical instruments.

## MARCH

3rd: *Doll Festival*. This festival is for the girls. A newly-bought set of dolls, or an old set handed down from mother to daughter for generations, is carefully arranged on red-cloth-covered shelves in the guest-room and in front of them the girls partake of their delicacies.

12th: *Water-Drawing Ceremony* of Todaiji Temple, Nara. At midnight, a solemn rite is performed at the Nigatsudo Hall in the glaring light of pine torches. As Buddhist ascetics brandish huge burning torches, fresh water is drawn for the first time in the spring from the well just below the hall.

Middle of the month: *Second Sumo Tournament* at Prefectural Gymnasium, Osaka.

20th or 21st: *Vernal Equinox Day* (national holiday). The week centering around this day is known as *Higan*, when all the Buddhist temples throughout the country hold special services for the souls of the departed.

## APRIL

During the month (usually starting from the 1st): *Cherry Dances: Azuma Odori* at Shimbashi, Tokyo; *Ashibe Odori* at Dotombori, Osaka; *Miyako Odori* at Gion, Kyoto; *Kamogawa Odori* at Pontocho, Kyoto.

Starting on 3rd: *Kite-Fighting Contests* at Nagasaki. Contestants try to cut off the strings of other kites by skillful maneuvering with their own kites. The contests are held on 3rd, 10th, 15th, 21st, 25th and 28th.

8th: *Flower Festival*. In commemoration of Buddha's birthday, small images of Buddha are displayed in the temples and sweet tea is poured over them by devotees. Little children in festival robes walk along in a procession before the altar.

14th-15th: *Sanno Festival* of Hie Shrine, Takayama, Gifu Prefecture. A gala parade is made by huge floats somewhat resembling movable stages on which mechanical dolls stand in elaborate setting.



Grand Festival of Toshogu Shrine, Nikko

## MAY

3rd-5th: *Dontaku* in Hakata (Fukuoka). Many attractive processions parade along the city streets with participants disguised as fair dancers and legendary gods. Fancy floats also are pulled along the main streets.

5th: *Children's Day*. Boys and girls are encouraged by their parents to grow up to be good citizens. In the homes warrior dolls and miniature armor are displayed, and huge paper or cloth carp are raised over the roofs on long poles.

11th-October 15th: *Cormorant Fishing* on the Nagara River, Gifu. The ancient mode of catching *ayu* (river-smelt) by the use of trained cormorants is given on the river every night under the light of blazing torches set up in the fishing boats.

13th-15th: *Festival* of Kanda Myojin Shrine, Tokyo. Huge palanquins reminding one of the feudal days are carried along the busy city streets.

Middle of the month: *Third Sumo Tournament* at Kokugikan, Asakusa Kuramae, Tokyo, lasting for 15 days.

15th: *Hollyhock Festival* at Shimogamo and Kamigamo Shrines, Kyoto. In imitation of the Imperial procession, an ox-drawn carriage and all the paraphernalia decorated with hollyhock leaves are pulled along the streets to and from the shrines which are also adorned with the leaves.

16th-18th: *Sanja Festival* of Asakusa Shrine, Tokyo. The festival is one of the most famous of its kind held in Tokyo, and its origin traces back to the Edo period. Many portable shrines parade the main streets, carried by young men and children. Performances of *dengaku* and *binzasara* dances also add to the gaiety.



[illegible]

Third Sunday: *Boat Festival* at Arashiyama, Kyoto. The festival is held on the Oi River near Arashiyama in the suburbs of Kyoto. It recreates the atmosphere of the Heian Era (794-1185) when the Emperor and his courtiers often went on a pleasure trip to the river to view the fine scenery of Arashiyama. Gaily decorated boats such as those seen in the ancient days again float down the river. Music is played on the two larger craft, the bow-sprits of which are fashioned as a dragon and a phoenix.

14th: *Rice-Planting Festival* at Sumiyoshi Shrine, Osaka. Twelve selected country lasses ceremoniously transplant

Within the month: *Peiron Boat Race*, Nagasaki. The boats used in the race are of peculiar construction, suggestive of ancient whaling boats. The bow-sprits of the craft, 10 meters long, are painted black while the bulwarks are vermilion and white. Banners are hoisted on the bow, and the midship



seats are occupied by the musicians who beat gongs and drums as the crew pulls on the oars. The race is participated in by a dozen or more boats, each manned by about 20 people.

## JULY

1st: *Opening of Mt. Fuji Climbing Season*. The official climbing season opens for Mt. Fuji, and Northern and Southern Japan Alps on this day. For climbers on Mt. Fuji all the stone-huts on the main climbing paths are open until the end of August.

7th: *Star Festival*. Children set up bamboo branches in the garden hung with many colorful strips of paper, as an offering to the legendary star weaver and her lover.

13th-15th: *Feast of Lanterns*. In memory of their dead, Buddhist families light lanterns and set up a fire to welcome them home from the other world.

16th: *Music Festival* of Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima. A colorfully decorated fleet of new boats makes a sea parade to the accompaniment of classic *gagaku* music.

16th-19th: *Festival of Wild Horse Chase* at Haramachi, Fukushima Prefecture. A thousand horse-riders in ancient armor vie for three shrine flags shot up on Hibarigahara Plain.

16th-24th: *Gion Festival* of Yasaka Shrine, Kyoto. This is one of the three grandest annual festivals in the ancient capital city, the other two being *Hollyhock Festival* in May and *Festival of Eras* in October. Chief attractions are parades of the *Yama* and *Hoko* floats. The floats are huge wheeled carts on which are set up roofed stages. The stages and carts are gorgeously decorated with gilt settings, elaborate carvings, carpets, tapestries, draperies and embroidery works.

Middle of the month: *Fourth Sumo Tournament* at Nagoya, lasting for 15 days.

Third or Fourth Saturday: *Grand Fireworks Display* on the Sumida River, Tokyo. On this day the opening of the Sumida River is celebrated by a grand fireworks display participated in by many leading firework-makers. From late afternoon till midnight all sorts of fireworks are either set or rocketed and over one million Tokyo citizens mill the embankment to enjoy the grand show.

25th: *Tenjin Festival* of Temmangu Shrine, Osaka. More than a hundred boats beautifully decorated with flags and dolls float down the river, lively music being played by the bands on board.

31st-August 1st: *Lake Festival* on Lake Ashi, Hakone. The festival is featured by the releasing of a great number of lighted paper lanterns on the water. The charming sight of the lake dotted with innumerable small lanterns attracts visitors from far and wide.

## AUGUST

1st-7th: *Dummy Float Festival* in Aomori Prefecture. Wheeled floats decorated with huge *nebuta* dummies representing legendary heroes, animals and birds are pulled around through the streets of Hirosaki City (1st-7th) and Aomori City (3rd-7th).

6th-8th: *Star Festival* at Sendai. Nearly every house and street are decorated with all sorts of colored paper streamers and strips. The festival is observed here one month later than in most parts of the country.

6th: *Kanto-Balancing Festival* at Akita. Young men in picturesque dress try their skill at balancing *kanto*, long bamboo poles hung with many lighted lanterns, on their hands, foreheads, shoulders and hips.

6th-7th: *Waraku Odori* at Kiyotaki in Nikko City, is one of the most popular folk dances in Japan. On the two nights, tens of thousands of people from far and near gather to dance to the accompaniment of gay music from late afternoon till midnight.

7th-13th: *Zuhoden Festival* of Iminomiya Shrine, Shimonoseki. A little before sunset, many young men and women gather in the shrine precincts, the men carrying bamboo poles with long white streamers and the women bearing colorful cages with small lanterns, and dance together to the accompaniment of the gay music of drums and flutes.

15th: *Lantern Festival* of Kasuga Shrine, Nara. This shrine is famous not only for its beautiful structure but its 3,000 or more lanterns; about half of the total stand in the shrine precincts, and the rest hang from the eaves of the buildings.

16th: *Great Bonfire* on Mt. Nyoigadake, Kyoto. An immense bonfire in the shape of the ideograph meaning "large" is lighted near the summit in the evening.

Late August: *Awa Odori* at Tokushima. For four days the city and the neighboring districts overflow with singing and dancing of the *Awa Odori*, a kind of *Bon* dance.

## SEPTEMBER

14th-16th: *Festival* of Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture. The festival is featured

"Jidai Matsuri" or Festival of Eras, Kyoto





by *Yabusame* held on the afternoon of the 16th in the precincts. *Yabusame* is an interesting game of horseback archery, a reminder of the feudal days when *samurai* warriors vied in horsemanship and archery in the 12th century.

Middle of the month: *Fifth Sumo Tournament* at Koku-gikan, Asakusa Kuramae, Tokyo, lasting for 15 days.

23rd or 24th: *Autumnal Equinox Day* (national holiday). During the week centering around this day, all the Buddhist temples hold special services in honor of the dead. People visit the tombs of their ancestors and pray for the souls of the departed.

## OCTOBER

7th-9th: *Okunchi Festival* of Suwa Shrine, Nagasaki. This festival originated in the 17th century when there were many Chinese residents in the port city. During the festival many colorful dances of Chinese origin are performed of which the *Dragon Dance* is the best feature. This dance is participated in by many men in gay Chinese dress carrying over their heads a huge cloth dragon. Dancing they march along the streets to the accompaniment of Chinese musical instruments. Floats and palanquins of various shapes also appear during the festival days, adding color and gaiety.

12th: *Oeshiki Festival* of Hommonji Temple, Tokyo. In commemoration of the demise of Priest Nichiren, founder of the Nichiren sect of Buddhism, on this day in 1282, thousands of devout believers march at night towards the temple carrying large square lanterns beautifully decorated with paper flowers, all the while beating their flat drums and reciting sacred formulas.

14th-15th: *Autumn Festival* at Matsubara Shrine near Himeji. Enormous shrine palanquins carried by teams of parishioners jostle each other for the foremost position in the procession uphill to the main shrine.

17th: *Grand Festival* of Toshogu Shrine, Nikko. A shrine palanquin is carried from the main shrine to the sacred place under the escort of a number of people armed with helmets, swords, spears and banners, all of the early Tokugawa days.

22nd: *Festival of Eras* of Heian Shrine, Kyoto. In commemoration of its founding in 794, Kyoto stages a unique procession of various groups of people, clad in costumes representing the main epochs in the city's long history.

28th-30th: *Okunchi Festival* at Karatsu, Saga Prefecture. This festival is highlighted by a parade of huge gorgeously decorated floats along the streets pulled by young men in gay uniform to musical accompaniment.

October and November: *Chrysanthemum Doll Shows* during the months of October and November in many parts of Japan feature dolls depicting human beings and animals, formed with flower twigs turned and twisted from a single plant.

## NOVEMBER

During the month: *Azuma Odori* at Shimbashi, Tokyo. A bevy of some 350 Tokyo beauties present colorful dance-plays at Shimbashi Embujo Theater.

3rd: *Culture Day* (national holiday). The nation is



Dragon float of Okunchi Festival, Nagasaki

encouraged to cherish its old cultural heritage and to create a new culture through meetings of various nature.

3rd-4th: *Daimyo Gyoretsu* at Hakone. A grand feudal lord's procession, starting from Yumoto, makes a stately round of all the hot spring resorts of Hakone.

During the month: *Cock Fairs*, Tokyo. *Kumade*, or bamboo rakes decorated with various trinkets, are sold at the roadside stalls as symbols of good luck. These fairs are held on the *Cock* day, which comes round every twelve days, at Otori Shrines in the city, of which the one at Asakusa is best known.

Middle of the month: *Last Sumo Tournament* at Fukuoka, lasting for 15 days.

15th: *Shichigosan Festival*. The word *shichigosan* means literally "Seven-Five-Three." Girls of seven years, boys of five, and three-year-olds of either sex, all dressed in their best, visit their tutelary shrines with their parents to seek further divine blessings.

## DECEMBER

1st-26th: *Kaomise Kabuki Plays* at Shijo, Kyoto. A troupe of top-ranking *Kabuki* actors make their formal appearance on the stage at Minamiza Theater. This event originated in a 17th-century custom with actors, playwrights and musicians to renew their contract with the theater management every December.

16th-17th: *Festival* of Kasuga Wakamiya Shrine, Nara. One of the grandest festivals in Nara, this festival originated in 1136 when a chief adviser to the Emperor first observed it in order to seek divine assistance in putting



under control the famine and other disasters then raging throughout the area. This festival is featured by a gala procession of people masquerading as courtiers and wrestlers of the old days. Classic dances and plays are also presented in the precincts.

31st: *Grand Last Day*. On this last day of the year, people give their homes a specially thorough cleaning, after which they eat a bowl of noodles as symbols of longevity and then sit up till midnight to listen to the *Joya-no-kane* or hundred-and-eight peals of the temple bells, which ring out the old year and herald the coming of the New Year.

## AMUSEMENTS

**Noh:** The Noh drama is a highly stylized stage art with a seven-century history of its development. Originally, it was a rustic form of lyric drama played between religious functions at a Shinto festival. The majority of the Noh plays were written in the 14th and 15th centuries. In all about 1,000 plays are said to have been composed, of which some 800 survive, and of these 242 are now actually performed.

The Noh is featured by rhythmical recitation of texts, classic music and symbolic movement of players. The Noh stage is decorated simply to befit the symbolic nature of the drama. Masks are used by the actors in the chief roles to indicate the characters portrayed.

**Kabuki:** The Kabuki is a theater art more popular in nature than the Noh. It flourished through the support of the masses, unlike the Noh which prospered through the patronage of the Court and the Shogunate.

The distinctive characteristics of the Kabuki drama lie in the combination of rhythmical words, unique dances, stirring *samisen* music, gorgeous costumes, colorful make-up and elaborate setting. What is particularly interesting to foreigners, female roles in the Kabuki are always played by male actors.

**Bunraku:** Bunraku Puppet Play is another unique form of stage entertainment in Japan which enjoys world-wide fame. It originated in the early 17th century and reached its zenith around the middle part of the following century.

The Bunraku puppet drama employs what is known as the "Three-men Puppetry," each of the principal puppets being operated by three manipulators to bring out amazing life-like movements. The accompanying music of vibrant *samisen*, forceful recitation of romantic ballads and gorgeous costumes the puppets wear are most impressive.

The home of the Bunraku puppet play is the Bunrakuza Theater in Osaka, but performances are often given in Tokyo.

**Cherry Dances:** In the cherry blossom season "Cherry Dances" are presented at the leading theaters in the large cities. This form of entertainment is a show of Japanese classic dance-play in gorgeous setting, often with a plot, by colorfully kimonoed dancers to the accompaniment of gay music.

Of the presentations the most celebrated are *Azuma Odori* of Tokyo and *Miyako Odori* of Kyoto.

**Modern Entertainment:** There are symphony concerts, recitals of songs and instrumental music, ballet dances, modern plays, operettas, vaudevilles, musicals and revues. The opera also is developing fast and many world-famous artists are presented seasonally.

The motion pictures, too, are very popular, and the latest American, European and Japanese films are shown in all parts of the country.

There are also nation-wide networks of radio and television broadcasting system with a number of stations, both national and private, in the major cities, and interesting programs can be enjoyed almost all through the day.

## SPORTS

**Skiing:** A mountainous country, Japan naturally abounds in ideal grounds for skiing, and what is of particular interest to foreign visitors, most of the Japanese skiing resorts have hotels and inns equipped with hot spring baths. There a two-fold pleasure of exercise and relaxation is insured.

The skiing season usually continues from the latter part of December till February, although it lasts considerably longer in northern Honshu and Hokkaido.

The principal skiing resorts are found in Honshu within easy reach of Tokyo, such as Akakura, Inner Nikko, Shiga Heights, Sugadaira, Minakami, Yuzawa, etc., in northern Honshu centering around Mt. Zao, Goshiki, Owani and others, and around Sapporo in Hokkaido.

A scene from a favorite kabuki drama







The traditional tea ceremony

**Skating:** During the winter months skating can also be enjoyed in many parts of Japan.

The major skating rinks in the country are found at Tomakomai in Hokkaido, Hachinohe in northern Honshu, and Karuizawa and Nikko in central Honshu. Lakes in the Akagi and Haruna mountains, and Lakes Yamanaka, Kawaguchi, Matsubara, Suwa and Tade-no-umi, in central Honshu, also offer good skating.

**Golfing:** In Japan there are some 230 golf links all located in ideal surroundings. They are managed either on a membership system or public system.

**Angling:** The lakes, rivers and mountain streams in Japan are mostly stocked with many kinds of fish, of which trout and river smelt are particularly favored by anglers. Angling out at sea as a form of sports, however, is less frequently followed.

Trout fishing may be enjoyed in some rivers and lakes in Hokkaido, Lake Towada in northern Honshu, Lake Ashi in the Hakone mountains, and Lake Chuzenji in the Nikko district. Fishing *ayu* (river smelt) is very popular throughout the country during the season which generally opens in June.

For wintertime angling, Lakes Kawaguchi and Yamanaka in the Fuji Five Lakes District, Lake Haruna and Lake Suwa offer a good stock of *wakasagi* (surf smelt) which can be caught through the holes in the ice.

**Sumo:** This traditional Japanese wrestling is performed by giant professionals. Compared with Western wrestling, the rules of *sumo* are much simpler. A match is decided

by one wrestler throwing his opponent or pushing him out of the ring, and a bout seldom lasts more than two or three minutes. But each bout is spirited, and there is an endless variety in the methods used in throwing.

**Sumo** championship tournaments are held with all their old-time splendor three times a year in Tokyo (January, May and September) and once each in Osaka (March), Nagoya (July) and Fukuoka (November).

**Judo:** This unique Japanese art of self-defense has now won universal fame. Visitors interested in this sport are advised to visit Kodokan in Tokyo where they will always find many young pupils undergoing training and practice and where exhibition bouts by experts are held from time to time. In May the Japan Judo Championship Tournament is held at Kodokan.

## SOUVENIRS

Japan is among the best countries in the Orient for souvenir hunting. The geographical peculiarities of the country, which covers a wide range in topography and climate, are reflected in the great variety of handicraft products.

**Silks:** Japanese silk is superior in quality. The high skill in dyeing it and the originality of its patterns give unparalleled beauty to the Japanese kimono. Equally excellent is Japanese embroidery work, which is applied to the kimono, its accessories, tapestry, table-covers and many other fancy goods.

**Pearls:** Pearls produced in Japan are mostly of the cultured variety, formed around irritants carefully inserted into the mantles of pearl oysters. The more popular souvenir items made of pearls are necklaces, brooches, earrings, cuff-links, rings and other personal ornaments.

**Porcelain and Pottery:** Plates, vases and tea service are popular souvenir items. There are also highly artistic articles such as figures of men and women, deities, birds, animals and replicas of ancient architecture, all suitable as mantelpiece or alcove ornaments.

**Cloisonne:** The Japanese cloisonne work boasts of its jewel-like glitter and high artistry of its design. The chief articles of cloisonne work are flower vases, smoking sets and cuff-links. Nagoya is the producing center of high-grade cloisonne ware.

**Lacquer Ware:** Lacquer ware of Japan excels in its durability and in the elaborate care which is put into its making. Particularly well known are Nara lacquer, manufactured in Nara, which is favored for the thin pieces of mother-of-pearl applied to its surface, *Maki-e* lacquer of Kyoto which has graceful lines and a bright finish sparkling with flakes of gold or silver, *Wajima-nuri* of Ishikawa Prefecture, *Tsugaru* lacquer of Aomori, *Shunkei-nuri* of Gifu Prefecture and *Kamakura-bori* made exclusively at Kamakura near Tokyo.

**Damascene:** Damascene ware is also among the most favored souvenirs in Japan. Its charm lies in its intricate gorgeous design depicted with gold and silver foil inlaid



on the surface of black steel. Kyoto is the chief producing center of the ware.

**Dolls:** Dolls come in many kinds, each showing the features of a locality or a certain age in history. *Yamato* dolls of Tokyo, usually figures of kimonoed children, are the commonest type. Kyoto produces *Fushimi*, *Gosho*, *Saga* and *Kimekomi* dolls. The *Fushimi* doll is considered the prototype of present Japanese clay dolls and the *Gosho* doll is unrealistic, having an over-sized head and small limbs.

In Kyushu are produced *Hakata* dolls realistically portraying in clay all kinds of human figures, while northern Honshu presents cute wooden *Kokeshi* dolls of the simplest imaginable shape. There are also some kinds of classical ceremonial dolls in Japan, of which *hina* and *musha* dolls are the best known. The former represent the ancient Imperial Court and are displayed on the Girls' Festival day, while the latter portray legendary heroes and are shown on the occasion of the Boys' Festival.

**Noh Masks:** Artistic masks used in the Noh plays and Shinto dances are highly prized as wall decorations in Western homes. They are carved from the best paulownia wood by select groups of master craftsmen.

**Lanterns:** Japanese lanterns nowadays are mostly used as decorations during festivals and other auspicious events. Some varieties such as the artistic lanterns produced at Gifu, however, are used exclusively during the summer season, when they are hung over verandas or in corridors to add to the evening coolness.

**Fans:** Almost all Japanese round fans and folding-fans are made of bamboo and paper, with drawings or designs on one side. Some varieties are made with ivory sticks and silk, and folding-fans used in classical dancing are larger, heavier and more colorful than ordinary fans.

**Bamboo Ware:** In Japan bamboo is widely utilized in making ornaments and domestic articles, such as baskets, handbags, picture frames, luncheon mats, blinds and standing screens, toys and model ships. Fishing rods made of Japanese bamboo are particularly prized by the world's Waltonians, as they are light, strong and pliant.

**Woodblock Prints:** The Japanese woodblock prints favored by the art connoisseurs of the world are mostly those produced during the Edo Period from paintings of the famous artists of the *ukiyo-e* (genre picture) school. Their faithful reproductions of no small artistic value are easily obtainable at moderate cost at the art shops in larger cities. There are also color prints showing the life and scenery of present-day Japan, which are excellent reproductions from pictures by contemporary artists.

Other tourist souvenirs worthy of mention include art objects in silver, bronze, crystal, coral and ivory, tortoise-shell ware, hand-made paper, silk parasols, rush and straw products, folk crafts, wood-carvings, cameras and binoculars.

## SHOPPING & TAX EXEMPTION

All the characteristic products from every part of Japan are sold at the department stores in the large cities such

as Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto. Most of these stores are open for business on Sundays.

As for specialty shops, member stores of the Japan Souvenir Association are recommended.

The following souvenir articles can be purchased tax-free at the stores designated by the local revenue offices, upon presentation of the tax-exemption form which is obtainable from the Customs Office at the port of entry.

*Pearls and articles decorated with pearls, articles made of, plated or coated with, precious metal, tortoise-shell, coral and ivory ware, cloisonne ware, furs, woodblock prints, cameras, binoculars and telescopes, articles used for room decoration, articles used in smoking made of lacquered metal, dolls, ceramic ware, personal ornaments made of lacquered metal, radio sets, tape recorders, gramophones, slide projectors and hunting guns.*

These tax-free articles will be checked by the Customs officer at the port of departure.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

**Hotels:** Western-style hotels, comparable to ranking hotels in America and Europe, are found in large cities and leading tourist resorts throughout Japan. 119 of these hotels belong to the Japan Hotel Association, having qualified for membership which requires high standard in service as well as in the facilities installed.

Western dishes are the standard fare served at all these hotels, but many of them also have special dining rooms and buffets where such typical Japanese delicacies as *sukiyaki* and *tempura* are served to the guests.

A plush Western-style hotel in Tokyo





**Inns:** There are well over 60,000 Japanese hotels or *ryokan* in the country. Of these, 893 better-grade ones are members of the Japan Ryokan Association.

The service and equipment provided at these hotels greatly differ from those in Western-style hotels, but an increasing number of them are adopting modern installations to meet the needs of foreign guests.

The guest-rooms (very often suites of rooms) are large and serve as living-room, dining-room and bedroom. They invariably have individual verandas adjoining them. The rooms in a suite are partitioned off from each other by paper sliding screens which can be removed when necessary. Cushions are provided in the room for the guests to sit on. As there are no bedsteads, thick soft bedding is laid out on the clean, matted floor at night, and is taken away in the morning. Meals are brought in each time by the maid on individual trays.

Recently Japanese-style hotels have come to win great favor among foreign visitors to Japan, as they offer them, in addition to a very home-like atmosphere and personalized service, an excellent chance to view the life and habits of the Japanese people.

## FOODS & DRINKS

For the epicure there are restaurants of all kinds in the large cities. In addition to the best in Japanese specialties, almost every kind of European and Chinese cooking is offered at these places.

Of the endless variety of Japanese dishes, *sukiyaki* and *tempura* are the two names that have gained international fame. *Sukiyaki* is a tasty preparation of thin slices of beef and vegetables, cooked in sweetened soy sauce and eaten direct from the sizzling saucepan, and *tempura* consists of fresh prawns and fish in season deep-fried in the finest vegetable oil. The excellence of Japanese beef and seafood accounts for their established popularity among foreign visitors.

Japanese *sake* is made from rice and is drunk hot. Beer produced in Japan is among the best in the world. Whiskey and other alcoholic drinks of high grade, both domestic products and importations, are obtainable in all parts of the country.

Water is quite safe to drink in every city and resort. Sanitary conditions in the restaurants are under strict supervision of local governments, and inspections are conducted at frequent intervals.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Railways:** The greater part of the railroad system in Japan is maintained by the Japanese National Railways, the remaining approximately 27 per cent being under the management of private companies.

The Japanese National Railways has a 20,516-kilometer railroad network throughout the four major islands—Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu—and this is supplemented by 7,500 kilometers of railways under private ownership. Electrified sections account for 15.9 per cent on the National Railways, and 80 per cent on the private lines.



Limited express "Kodama" on the Tokaido trunk line

Sleeping cars are available on most of the overnight expresses, and dining cars on most of the express trains as well as all the limited express trains.

Limited express services are in operation on Tokyo—Nagoya, Tokyo—Osaka, Tokyo—Kobe, Tokyo—Uno, Tokyo—Hiroshima, Tokyo—Hakata, Tokyo—Nagasaki, Tokyo—Nishi-Kagoshima, Kyoto—Nagasaki, Kyoto—Miyazaki, Kyoto—Matsue, Osaka—Uno, Osaka—Aomori, Ueno in Tokyo—Aomori, Ueno in Tokyo—Akita, Ueno in Tokyo—Osaka via Naoetsu, Ueno in Tokyo—Niigata, Hakodate—Asahikawa sections.

In all parts of Japan, private railway companies operate fast, efficient electric-car services between metropolitan areas and tourist points.

**Domestic Air Service:** The Japan Air Lines makes frequent daily flights from Tokyo to Osaka and Fukuoka to the west, and to Sapporo to the north, with a fleet of Convair 880-M, Douglas DC-4, DC-6B and DC-7C planes.

Besides, the All Nippon Airways and other companies operate regular domestic air services all over the country.

**Steamer Routes:** The longest, and probably the most enjoyable, coastwise steamship route is the Osaka-Beppu service through the Inland Sea of Seto with calls at Kobe and a number of ports on the northern coast of Shikoku Island. The voyage aboard 2,800-ton steamers requires 14 hours 20 minutes.

**Taxis:** Taxicabs are available at call or on the street in larger cities and towns. Most of the hotels and main railroad stations maintain service depots from which taxis can be called.

For sightseeing or shopping tours in the major cities, sedans with chauffeurs may be hired by the hour.

**Motorbus Service:** Well-developed motorbus routes connect cities and tourist centers in all parts of the country. In the city areas, local sightseeing bus companies offer excellent service on spacious motor-coaches, with a variety in the routes to be chosen.



## ENTRY PROCEDURE

As a general rule, foreign visitors desiring to enter Japan must have a valid passport visaed by a Japanese consular officer abroad or, where there is no consular representation, by the head of the Japanese Embassy or Legation.

However, citizens of the United States of America and Canada are exempted from the payment of visa fees when they enter Japan as tourists (this exemption measure is not applicable to Canadian citizens residing outside of Canada); and visas are not required of tourists who are citizens of the following countries:

*Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey.*

The maximum periods of stay in Japan are 15 days for visitors in transit and 60 days for "tourists" whose object of visit in Japan is sightseeing, not involving any professional or commercial activity.

Under any of the following conditions passengers without a Japanese visa on commercial carriers may be granted permission to land in Japan, as a special case of landing, by the immigration authorities.

1. For layovers of a maximum of 72 hours ashore at a Japanese port-of-call, and the area adjacent to it, as members of organized "Shore Excursions," while the carrier is in port.
2. For sightseeing as members of "Overland Tours" between two ports-of-call in Japan organized and conducted by authorized travel agencies. These tours must be within 15 days' duration, and the passengers must travel by the designated route and take the same vessel.

Application for special permit must be presented to the immigration authorities through the representative of the carriers before entry into the port-of-call.

## CUSTOMS

All baggage must be declared and go through Customs inspection at the port of entry. Duty will not be charged on such personal effects of the visitors as are deemed necessary for their own use.

Visitors may further retain dutiable goods (such as tobacco, liquors) free of duty and tax subject to the following limits, provided they are for personal use:—

1. Tobacco: Up to 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grams of pipe tobacco. (One fourth of the above quantity for visitors in transit)
2. Wines and Spirits: Up to half a dozen bottles. (Three bottles for visitors in transit)

## QUARANTINE

Visitors to Japan, excepting those coming from or through areas infected with cholera or smallpox, are not required to have certificates of inoculation. It is recommended, however, that they bring the certificates, as the Quarantine officer may request, in case of necessity, that they be vaccinated.

Persons suffering from legal epidemics, leprosy or mental diseases are not permitted to land in Japan.

## CURRENCY

While in Japan, foreign visitors must make all their payments in Japanese yen currency.

The yen currency is purchasable at banks and authorized agencies. The official basic exchange rate is U.S. \$1 to ¥360, but the actual conversion rate is subject to slight fluctuation. In the case of the pound sterling, travelers' checks not specified as "valid and negotiable in Sterling Area" are convertible in Japan.

When the visitors depart from Japan, their unspent yen will be reconverted into the original currency, within a limit of ¥36,000.

## SUGGESTED TOURS

**7-Day Tour:** Your 7-day tour of Japan starts with sightseeing in Tokyo, the capital, and ends with arrival back in the city, making visits to such principal tourist resorts as Kyoto, the ancient capital, Nara, another ancient capital of Great Buddha fame, Hakone, famed for its mountain scenery and hot springs, and Nikko, noted for the Toshogu Shrine, by train and auto.

**14-Day Tour:** In 14 days you can cover most of the tourist resorts in the central and western parts of Honshu, leaving Tokyo by train, such as Kamakura, a scenic seaside resort, Miyanoshita, the center of the Hakone district, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, the business center of western Japan, Takamatsu, entrance port to Shikoku Island, the Inland Sea, a unique sea park, Hiroshima, an industrial center, and Miyajima or Shrine Island. A visit to Nikko will be made before leaving Tokyo or after arrival back in the capital.

**14-Day Tour:** In another way of touring Japan in 14 days visits to Nagoya, the largest industrial city of central Japan, and Pearl Island off Toba, the main seat of pearl culture industry, will replace those to Hiroshima and Miyajima included in the tour above.

**21-Day Tour:** Twenty-one days will enable you to enjoy a more leisurely tour of Japan. Visits will be made to most of Japan's major tourist centers: on the mainland, Kamakura, Miyanoshita, Nagoya, Ise, Toba, Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Miyajima; in Kyushu, Beppu, a noted spa, Mt. Aso, Kumamoto, an old castle town, Unzen, the center of Unzen-Amakusa National Park, Nagasaki, an old port town of exoticism, Fukuoka, an industrial city. You will then fly back from Fukuoka to Tokyo, enjoying an air view of the Inland Sea en route. A visit to Nikko will terminate your pleasant Japan tour.

## TOUR ARRANGEMENT & GUIDE SERVICE

Sightseeing tours in Japan are arranged and operated by Japan Travel Bureau and other travel agencies. Tours to meet individual requirements may also be arranged.

The service of licensed English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, or Portuguese-speaking guides may be secured through Japan Guide Association.